

## AMID CIVIC DISPLAY

### Inaugural Ceremonies Are Performed Under Favorable Auspices.

CORNERSTONE OF THE EXPOSITION LAID  
Streets Filled with Bands and Lines of  
Marching Men.

CITIZENS GATHER AT SITE OF THE ARCH

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Grand Body of Masons Has Charge of the Exercises.

**Inauguration of Preparations to Construct the Arch of States is Made a Gala Day in**

The inauguration ceremonies of the Trans-  
mississippi and International Exposition  
were held yesterday under the most favor-  
able auspices and the whole affair, from

The weather was all that could have been desired. The drenching rain of Wednesday purified the atmosphere while the penetrating sun of Thursday dried the clouds.

trating rays of the bright sun dried up the mud and warmed the air with a balmy radiance which penetrated to the cockles of the most obdurate heart.

The brightness of the weather had a most exhilarating effect upon the citizens

The streets were filled with people at an early hour and the whole town took on a holiday appearance. A multitude of flags floated from the buildings in all parts of the city and bunting in the national colors was thrown to the air from business and

residences. All of the railroad offices and wholesale houses and nearly all of the retail stores closed their doors at noon, the attaches improving the opportunity to join in the general jubilation which marked the entire day as being one of more than ordinary importance. The public schools were

closed in honor of the occasion and the children added to the throng.

**ALL GOING TO THE GROUNDS.**

As though by preconcerted arrangement no attempt had been made to have any Arbor Day exercises anywhere but on the exposition grounds, and everybody seemed

was to mark the actual beginning of the work on the exposition. The streets leading to the northern portion of the city were filled with people long before noon, all making their way to the place where the exercises were to be held. Men, women and children were decked in holiday colors and

At 1 o'clock the streets down town were filled with numerous organizations making their way to the rendezvous for the parade. Farnam street, between Sixteenth and Twentieth, presented a brilliant scene. The large number of bands marched and counter-marched, playing the while the city bells

filled with the confusion of sweet sounds, and the military and civic societies moved to their places in the line.

The parade was a trifle late in starting, but the best of order was observed, and when Grand Marshal Wilcox gave the command to march the great procession moved off with impressive effect. As the rear of the

first division passed the point where the second division was formed the latter fell in line, and when all had taken their places in the long line the procession was a most imposing one. The military and civic societies were intermingled in such a way as to take away the general stiffness

All along the line of march, from the business districts to the grounds, the streets were lined with people on foot, in carriages and on horseback, with bicyclists in large

The procession followed the line of march as previously announced, accompanied by enthusiasm and cheers of the onlookers.

**STARTING OF THE PARADE.**

A strong detail of police, forty in number, under command of Captain Haze, lead the long line. The men marched in double

Grand Marshal Wilcox, with the Board of Governors of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben as aides, came next. The marshal and staff were mounted, the aides wearing the white flannel suits trimmed with blue braid which attracted so much attention during the car-

The Seventh Ward Military band had the head of the column and was the recipient of much applause all along the line. Following the band were carriages containing the Board of Directors of the Exposition, the present city officials and the newly elected officials. These carriages were formed in

The Second division was in charge of Marshal R. M. Stone. Following the Omaha division, based upon the Omaha Guards com-

manded by Captain Mulford. Then came the Commercial club and Board of Trade in a long line of carriages, three abreast, and these were followed by the High School cadets, Gate City lodge Ancient Order of United Workmen, and the letter carriers in full force.

Marshal W. R. Bennett. The Thurston Rifles had the right of the line, followed by the Knights of St. George, the Woodmen of the World, and the Advertising Men's club in carriages. The Council Bluffs High School cadets brought up the rear in this division.

The Fourth division was in command of Marshal Wheeler, with the Dodge Line.

Guards of Council Bluffs in the lead. Following these were Ak-Sar-Ben Lodge and Union Pacific lodge Ancient Order of United Workmen, and Modern Woodmen of America.

**MASONIC DEMONSTRATION.**

When the line reached the corner of Sixth and Grand avenues, toward the Plaza

division in waiting. This division consisted entirely of the Masonic fraternity. At the head was Mount Calvary commandary, Knights Templar, 100 mounted men, presenting a most imposing appearance. Following the commandary was St. John's lodge, Covert lodge, Capitol lodge, Nebraska lodge and another lodge of Mount Calvary commandary.

on foot. The band of the Twenty-second infantry came next, preceding the Masonic grand lodge of Nebraska, under whose direction the cornerstone of the Arch of the States was to be laid.

The grand lodge proper was preceded by its grand tiler, Jacob W. King, bearing a drawn sword and the Jacobite motto, "G. B. Soutain."

came next, carrying the implements with which the stone was to be tested; following him was Grand Treasurer Chris Hartman and Grand Secretary W. R. Bowen, the former bearing the box which was to be deposited in the corner stone. The Holy Bible, square and compass were borne by J. J. Mercer,

being the one used in the first Masonic lodge instituted in Nebraska, and the book of holy writ upon which the first Mason made in this state swore allegiance to the order. Grand